

Message Text

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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ZAGREB 772

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TAGS: PFOR EAIR US YO

SUBJ: TWA HIJACKING - ZAGREB PRESS REACTION

REF: BELGRADE 5978

1. BOTH ZAGREB SUNDAY PAPERS, VJESNIK AND BORBA, FEATURED SERIES OF ARTICLES ON TWA HIJACKING. BORBA CARRIED TANJUG COMMENTARY AND SAME EDITORIAL WHICH APPEARED IN BELGRADE EDITION (REFTEL). VJESNIK CARRIED ARTICLES FROM PARIS AND NEW YORK CORRESPONDENTS AND ARTICLE DATED IN ZAGREB WHICH SUMMARIZES TANJUG REPORT.

2. WHILE VJESNIK SUMMARY OF TANJUG REPORT STRONGLY CRITICIZES US FOR TOLERATING ACTIVITIES OF ANTI-YUGOSLAV EXTREMIST GROUPS, ARTICLE FROM NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT DRAZEN VUKOV COLIC CONTAINS SOME DIFFERENT SLANTS ON HIJACKING. SO THAT, FOR EXAMPLE, ARTICLE INTERPRETS HIJACKING AS ACT OF DESPERATION BY CROATIAN EMIGRE GROUPS WHICH ARE FINDING LESS AND LESS SUPPORT FOR ANTI-YUGOSLAV ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES AND WHICH ARE COMING UNDER QUOTE EVER MORE DETERMINED UNQUOTE INVESTIGATION BY US POLICE. COMPLETE TEXT OF LATTER ARTICLE IS AS FOLLOWS:

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"THOSE ARE INSANE PEOPLE", SAYS THE MAYOR OF NEW YORK CITY,

ABRAHAM BEAME. "THOSE ARE LUNATICS WHO THREATEN MANY LIVES IN AN ACTION WHICH THEY KNOW CANNOT ACHIEVE ANYTHING. I HOPE THAT THESE MURDERERS WILL BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE". THIS WAS ONE OF THE FIRST REACTIONS TO THE NEWS THAT THE SELF-APPOINTED "FIGHTERS FOR FREEDOM OF CROATIA" HAD HIJACKED AN AIRPLANE OF THE AMERICAN COMPANY, TWA, ON FRIDAY EVENING (BY CENTRAL EUROPEAN TIME--ON SATURDAY MORNING LOCAL TIME) AT THE NEW YORK AIRPORT LAGUARDIA AND WERE STARTING TO DROP LEAFLETS ON EUROPEAN CAPITALS. "DURING WORLD WAR II," EXPLAINS THE NEW YORK POST TO ITS READERS, "USTASHI IN THEIR FIGHT WITH TITO'S PARTISANS- COMMUNISTS KILLED ABOUT EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND JEWS, SERBS, AND GYPSIES TOGETHER WITH CROATS AND OTHER OPPONENTS OF THE REGIME" WHICH AS THIS NEWSPAPER SAYS, "WAS A PUPPET IN ITALIAN AND GERMAN HANDS."

THUS AT THE ADDRESS WHICH THE TERRORISTS PUT AT THE END OF THEIR LONG PROCLAMATION(THE NUMBER OF A POST OFFICE BOX, SHARP CONDEMNATIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS OF THE POLITICAL BACKGROUND OF THE HIJACKERS IMMEDIATELY STARTED TO ARRIVE. BUT THEY HAD BEEN HOPING FOR PRAISE WHICH WAS REALLY DIFFICULT TO GET FOR THIS "NIGHT OF TERROR". (NEW YORK POST)

ON SATURDAY MORNING, ALL AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO-TELEVISION STATIONS AGREED THAT IT IS A QUESTION OF "PROPAGANDA ACTION" BY EXTREMISTS, WHILE ONE GROUP OF PASSENGERS RELEASED FROM THE HIJACKED PLANE IN CANADA SPOKE ABOUT "THE PROPAGANDA THEY WERE SUBJECTED TO ALL THE TIME."

BLOODY INTRODUCTION. BUT THESE LEAFLETS WHICH VERY SERIOUSLY AND POMPOUSLY SPEAK ABOUT "UNBEARABLE CULTURAL, POLITICAL, AND ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION OF CROATIA," HAD THEIR OWN BLOODY INTRODUCTION. PRIOR TO THE HIJACKING, A BOMB WAS PLACED IN ONE OF THE CENTRAL STATIONS OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILWAY IN NEW YORK CITY, AND MEMBERS OF THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE BOMB DISPOSAL SQUAD UNFORTUNATELY DID NOT SUCCEED IN MASTERING THAT MONSTROUS DEVICE. ON FRIDAY EVENING IT EXPLODED IN THE HANDS OF FOUR POLICEMEN. BRIAN O'MURRAY, 28, WAS KILLED ON THE SPOT; SERGEANT TERENCE MCTIGUE IS FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE; AND HENRY DWORKIN AND FRITZ O'BEHR ARE IN THE HOSPITAL SERIOUSLY WOUNDED. WHILE MAYOR BEAME WAS ON DUTY ALMOST

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THE WHOLE NIGHT IN THE HOSPITAL DURING THE OPERATION ON THE WOUNDED POLICEMEN, AT THE CHICAGO AIRPORT, THE FAMILIES WERE CRYING FOR THESE 50 AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO HAD TO CROSS THE OCEAN IN AN AIRPLANE NOT TECHNICALLY EQUIPPED FOR THE TRIP IN THE NAME OF AN "APPEAL TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE" BY THESE "FIGHTERS FOR FREE CROATIA."

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THE AUTHORS OF THIS PROCLAMATION ARE STRUGGLING AGAINST THE SHADOWS OF HITLER AND MUSSOLINI. IN THIS RENUNCIATION OF THEIR OWN PAST, THEY ADMIT THAT "EVEN A JUSTIFIED USE OF FORCE CAN CAUSE FEAR AND DISCONTENT IN ONE PART OF THE POPULATION," AND THEY PROMISE "THAT THEY WILL USE FORCE AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE," BUT THEY NEVERTHELESS HIJACKED THE AIRPLANE AND PLANTED A BOMB WHICH KILLED ONE PERSON AND THEY ANNOUNCED THERE WAS A SECOND BOMB WHICH COULD EXPLODE AT ANY TIME. INDIGNATION. SUCH A "LIBERATION POLICY" DOES NOT HAVE THE SUPPORT OF AMERICAN CITIZENS NOR OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, AND THE DEATH AND INJURIES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BOMB DISPOSAL SQUAD AROUSED THE ANGER OF THE CITIZENS OF NEW YORK, WHO STILL HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN THE UNEXPLAINED EXPLOSION AT LAGUARDIA AIRPORT, AND WHO MUST NOW AGAIN LISTEN TO HOW AT THIS VERY SAME AIRPORT, ANOTHER HIJACKING OF A PASSENGER PLANE HAPPENED AFTER A FULL 16 MONTHS OF PEACE IN THE ENTIRE USA.

IN THE USA, EVEN THE WORST GANGSTERS KNOW THAT THE MURDER OF A POLICEMAN IS AN UNPARDONABLE CRIME, AND SO IS THE HIJACKING OF AN AIRPLANE, AN ACT WHICH IS DETESTED IN THE UNITED STATES. SO WHY THEN DID THESE TERRORISTS DECIDE TO COMMIT THESE TWO MOST UNPOPULAR TYPES OF CRIME? THE REPLY WAS GIVEN IN THEIR BLACKMAILING MEMORANDUM, AND IT IS MOST SIMPLY BASED ON THE FACT THAT IN

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THE AMERICAN PUBLIC THEY HAVE EVER LESS AND LESS SUPPORT FOR THEIR ANTI-YUGOSLAV DISRUPTIVE IDEAS, SO THEY WOULD LIKE TO "AWAKEN THE CONSCIENCE".

RECENTLY THE STATE DEPARTMENT DECLARED THAT IN THE FUTURE IT WILL CONTINUE TO "SUPPORT AND RESPECT THE INTEGRITY AND UNITY OF YUGOSLAVIA"--AND IT IS JUST THIS WHICH "THE FIGHTERS FOR THE FREEDOM OF CROATIA"-- ARE DENOUNCING. BESIDES THIS THEY ARE FIGHTING AGAINST ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND THE USA. THEIR DISRUPTIVE EFFORTS ARE ALL THE LESS FAVORABLY JUDGED; THE AMERICAN POLICE ARE ALL THE MORE DETERMINED IN INVESTIGATING THE REAL CONTENT OF THE WORK OF SOME EMIGRE ASSOCIATIONS; AND ALSO CONGRESSMEN ARE OPPOSING THE FUTURE PROTECTION OF FORMER WAR CRIMINALS WHO NOW LIVE UNDISTURBED IN THE USA. THEREFORE A PANIC BEGAN TO REIGN IN EMIGRE RANKS. THEREFORE, ONE HAD TO INVENT SOMETHING REALLY SPECTACULAR-- A HIJACKING, LEAFLETS, AND BOMBS.

BARTER. LARGE AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED THE EXTENSIVE STATEMENT OF THE TERRORISTS, SINCE THAT WAS THE BASIC CONDITION FOR DISARMING THE SECOND BOMB AND RELEASING THE KIDNAPPED PASSENGERS. ALTHOUGH THE MAJORITY OF NEWSPAPERS DID NOT AGREE COMPLETELY THAT THE HIJACKERS COULD DICTATE THEIR MOST IMPORTANT PAGES TO THE SLIGHTEST DETAIL, IT IS NEVERTHELESS MORE THAN CERTAIN THAT THE PRESS FULFILLED ITS PART OF THE AGREEMENT, IN THE NEW AMERICAN TACTIC WHICH AIMS FOR NEGOTIATIONS AS LONG AS POSSIBLE WITH ALL SORTS OF TERRORISTS, IN ORDER TO RESCUE AS MANY HUMAN LIVES AS POSSIBLE. BUT WHILE THE NEWSPAPERS CONSENTED TO A BARTER, THE TERRORISTS DID NOT FULFILL THEIR PROMISES, AND IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT ONE SHOULD NOT HAVE BELIEVED SUCH PEOPLE.

FOR THE SAKE OF THE TRUTH, ONE HAS TO ADMIT THAT A SECTION OF AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS, RADIO, AND TELEVISION APPROACHED THE WHOLE STORY PURELY FOR REASONS OF CIRCULATION, AND SOME--WITH MORE OR LESS SERIOUSNESS--ARE TRYING TO FIND IN EVERYTHING EVEN "DEEPER POLITICAL REASONS."

IT IS THAT MINORITY, WHETHER OUT OF NEGLIGENCE OR IGNORANCE, OR FOR COMMERCIALISM OR POLITICS, WHICH IS THE LAST RESORT OF THE HIJACKERS. THOSE "SYMPATHIZERS OF CROATS" ARE NOT MANY, BUT SOMETIMES THEY CAN BE VERY LOUD ESPECIALLY IN THIS STORMY TIME IN AMERICA WHEN VARIOUS

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GROUPS TRY TO GRAB AS LARGE AS POSSIBLE PIECE OF POWER IN ELECTION DECISION MAKING.

IN SUCH BATTLES AND MANEUVERS SOMETIMES THEY USE

FOR ANTI-YUGOSLAV PURPOSES RELIGION AND THE NATION (SUCH AS THE STORIES ON YUGOSLAV PERSECUTION OF JEWS), SOMETIMES BROADER INTERNAL SQUARING OF ACCOUNTS (AN EFFORT TO SHOW WASHINGTON AS AMORAL BECAUSE IT COOPERATES WITH "DICTATORIAL REGIMES" AMONG WHICH SOME PEOPLE TRY TO INCLUDE ALSO YUGOSLAVIA), AND SOMETIMES THE GENERAL WORLD TRENDS IN WHICH THE USA FEELS ITSELF THREATENED BY THE STRENGTHENING OF THE NON-ALIGNED POLICY. EMIGRE GROUPS TRY AND USE FOR THEIR OWN ENDS SUCH INTERNAL POLITICAL OR INTERNATIONAL FACTORS WHICH MIGHT TEMPORARILY SLOW DOWN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICAN-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS. AND THUS OVER THE CAPITALS OF EUROPE THESE QUITE UNUSUAL LEAFLETS FLUTTERED, WHEN ALREADY MANY THINGS HAVE IRRETRIEVABLY FAILED. UNQUOTE KAISER

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